

Appl. No. : 09/738,372
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2001, the subsequent Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief. The remaining claims 35 to 42 are newly added by this amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 34 by replacing -- ; and -- at the end of the claim with a period.

Please add the following new claims:

57. A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
suppressing Q-switching to yield cw mode-locked pulses.
58. A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said suppressing step comprises absorbing Q-switched laser pulses.
59. A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step absorbs a fraction of the Q-switched pulses.
60. A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step comprises two photon absorption.
61. A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said generating step comprises:
pumping a gain medium located within a laser cavity; and
absorbing optical radiation from said gain medium in a Fabry-Perot structure.
62. A method as defined in Claim 61, wherein said generating step additionally comprises resonating said optical radiation within said Fabry-Perot structure.
63. A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
preferentially suppressing Q-switching without suppressing cw mode-locked laser pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.
64. A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.

REMARKS

Invention overview

The present invention is a product capable of achieving self-starting continuous wave